



CITY OF NORTH OAKS

Regular Natural Resources Commission Meeting
Monday, April 11, 2022
6 PM, Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive
MEETING AGENDA

Remote Access - *For the 4/11/2022 Meeting, ALL Natural Resource Commission members will participate by telephone or other electronic means pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.021. Any person wishing to monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location may do so by calling the following Zoom meeting videoconference number: 1-312-626-6799, Webinar ID: 892 4089 3666 or by joining the meeting via the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89240893666>.*

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Citizen Comments - *Members of the public are invited to make comments to the Commission during the public comments section. Up to four minutes shall be allowed for each speaker. No action will be taken by the Commission on items raised during the public comment period unless the item appears as an agenda item for action.*

5. Approval of Previous Month's Minutes

- 5a. Approval of Meeting minutes of March 14, 2022
[3.14.2022 NRC Meeting Minutes final.pdf](#)

6. Business Action Items

- 6a. Consideration of the use of biocontrol's against the Emerald Ash Borer
[North Oaks EAB Plan Final.pdf](#)
- 6b. Discussion and possible action on Earth Day activities
- 6c. Discussion and possible action on Wetland Ordinance matters
- 6d. Discussion on septic and wastewater

7. Commissioner / Staff Reports - - *Tick Task Force Report*
- Community Outreach

- *NOHOA/ NEST Report*
- *City Forester Report*
- *VLAWMO Tech Report*
- *City Report*

8. Next Meeting:

- 9. Adjourn** - *The next meeting of the Natural Resource Commission will take place on May 9, 2022.*

North Oaks Natural Resources Commission
NRC Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Teleconference or Electronic Means Only
March 14, 2022 at 6 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dunn called the meeting of March 14, 2022 to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

NRC members participated **by telephone or other electronic means** pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

Present: Chair Shannon Dunn, Commissioners Andrew Hawkins, Penny Kianian, Damien LePoutre, Addison Motta, City Council Liaisons James Hara and Tom Watson, City Administrator Kevin Kress

Absent: Paul Ellis, David White, Bob Larson

A quorum was declared present.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Hara requested to add 6d. as Deer Management to the agenda to provide an update. It was also requested to remove “Winsor” from reference under outreach report.

MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by LePoutre, to approve the agenda as amended.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH’S MINUTES

MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by Motta, to approve the February 17, 2022 meeting minutes and March 3, 2022 Special Meeting minutes.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

6a. VLAWMO Long-range Plan

- VLAWMO contacted Commissioner Hawkins to share their 5-year plan of items to be addressed and in what year. This is the first pass of the list in order to get feedback from each of the partner communities.

- Hawkins referenced the spreadsheet (located in the meeting packet) detailing VLAWMO priority areas, the estimated cost and potential partners for implementation. In the summer, VLAWMO will circle back to attend a NRC meeting to communicate the feedback they have gotten regarding the long range plan. This will be shared with all partners of the projects.
- Hawkins asked VLAWMO how they prioritize what can be tackled in a given year. They indicated they tackle those that deem priority that using the funds they have with feedback from the community.
- There will be aquatic invasive water species pilot program that will be recorded, and then prioritize which invasive species by water body to target.
- VLAWMO is working with Minnesota Pollution control to help educate and certify people on good water management practices and use of salt.
- TMDL (total maximum daily load) partnership project listed under pleasant/Charley/Deep Lake - they've started gathering data on what is being found in our chain of lakes and other areas.
- Commissioner LePoutre is looking for a clearer definition of how these priority items were originally identified, which turned into the action item on the shared spreadsheet.
- Watson noted that surface water and ground water were identified as key areas by VLAWMO. He stated that the priorities North Oaks listed was different than what the other 5 communities listed. He will share that list, but invasive species was #6 on most communities list, whereas it is a priority for North Oaks. Other communities put ditches and surface water as of most important.
- Hawkins mentioned they are planning on going out in field with VLAWMO to discuss invasive species.
- Kianian stated she believed at this point that we were supposed to provide feedback at this time, and at some point, step in to provide volunteer hours. Hawkins confirmed this is the case.
- Watson noted at some point there may be an ask for funding, but not at this point.
- Watson will distribute the 6 priority strategies for inclusion in the minutes.

6b. Discussion and possible action on climate emergency proclamation

- Hara provided an update on the Council discussion on this Climate Emergency Proclamation and why it has come back to NRC for further review. As part of the website where the template originated, there is a 30-point step by step process for passing a Climate Emergency fund. Some of the excerpts in that webinar were far more reaching than just climate change and project political and social initiatives that would likely not be supported by our community. He asked if North Oaks can just focus on our own initiatives as it is redrafted to include our forests, mature trees, wetlands, and little industrial space. Going forward, it would be helpful to keep in mind climate change and do new neighborhoods in such a way to minimize cutting of trees that can reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere.
- Resident Bob Mackie, 15 Pine Road, agreed that the initiative linked in the video did seem radical and believes that North Oaks could focus on our own initiative.
- Lepoutre feels the Resolution itself doesn't link us to the group.
- Hara noted that we definitely could do our own verbiage.

- Watson mentioned the verbiage in the Resolution could be tailored down to 1 page to make it applicable to North Oaks Community and specific project initiatives we can take. Minimize the number of “whereas” in the document, to only North Oaks focus.
- Remove an inadequate response to climate crisis is starkly felt by marginalized and underserved communities. Condense international statistics. Bi partisan next generation Paladium Act doesn’t seem to add value.
- LePoutre recommended we tweak the Whereas: “We recognize that Climate the City of North Oaks recognizes excess greenhouse gas are the #1 cause of climate change “ to “The City of North Oaks recognizes that excess greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide produced by human activity produce climate change.”
- Hawkins feels it would be open to making another edit in order to bring it back to a future NRC meeting.
- Dunn will provide feedback from discussion to Kate, and take another crack at revising with a North Oaks focus.
- Watson noted in April NRC takes place a few days before the next Council meeting, so it may be possible to redraft and review prior to the April Council.
- Kress suggested that the title be changed to Climate Action Plan to make it more tailored to our goal.
- Bob Mackie referenced the State of Minnesota drafted document of the Climate Action framework that Governor Walz put together to attack climate change. The link for this is in the packet and is a well-planned out document for Minnesota specific action items and steps to address this.

6c. Pesticide Door Hanger Discussion

- Dunn shared a picture of pesticide door hangers that can be purchased and possibly put in the North Oaks welcome packets for new residents to help educate them to the impact of pesticides.
- Kress mentioned that he can take lead on making this purchase, and believe it would be under \$100. Kress will work Kate to reimburse her for the purchase.
- Hawkins mentioned in past NOHOA sent about 200 new residents packets each year. We had previously included information on Pollinators in the packet.
- Herbicide plan is phase 2 of pesticide plan and feels these ties together nicely. Lepoutre mentioned that Pesticide, herbicide and **fermicides** are all important.

6d. Deer Management Update

- Hara stated that he has been in consistent contact with Ramsey County Park District coordinator Mike Goodnature, who mentioned that 10-12 inches of snow is needed for an aerial deer survey. Each follow up with him over the winter indicated there was not enough snow to take this survey. He feels it would be useful to share with community information regarding status of deer management goals and objectives, and how it ties in with tick management to help share the comprehensive program. Hara mentioned they would do an educational article in the fall regarding the plan.
- Hawkins attended an EPA webinar on integrated tick management. Dr. Kirby Stanford stated the current thinking in this field of research for Integrated Tick management is that the threshold for tick borne illness is 13 deer per square mile.
- Hawkins will share key notes from that webinar with the Commissioners.

- Watson noted his experience from University of Minnesota was 11-15 deer, the less number was where the land was developed vs. higher number for less populated. In North Oaks, that number would vary based on the zone of North Oaks and the housing density and open space.
- He also noted that when they do aerial counts, they would be counted within the zone. They would also know how many were taken from each zone, which is helpful to know the overall population density.
- Lepoutre noted that it is good to have a quantifiable measurement.
- Hara noted that does and fawns travel 50-100 acres. Bucks will go twice farther than that within a 2-3 miles radius. They tend to stay put in the general area.
- Hara will work with Hawkins, Chair of TTF, on best method for sharing information for residents.

7. COMMISSIONER / STAFF REPORTS

7a. Tick Task Force Reports

- The first Tick Task force meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday 3/29. Looking for new members. They meet by zoom, and links are on the city website calendar. TTF will also publish information in eblast and other in other resources.
- Hawkins also has all the educational materials to put on NRC table at next event. Send any information or questions regarding TTF to him for discussion at the next meeting.

7b. Community Outreach/Education

- Kianian is putting together an article on pesticide use for resident consideration as start signing up for summer lawncare and being thoughtful with their use of pesticide. What is the active ingredient in what they using, when are they applied, who will apply, frequency of application, and what is the reentry period into that area to avoid animal exposure.
- Lepoutre mentioned it would be important to ask lawncare service what is in their fertilizer. Kianian mentioned that they have outlawed MPK phosphates in fertilizer in the State of Minnesota.

7c. NOHOA Nest

- Nest met in March and developed 2022 work plan. It is focused on areas such as: Seed collection event on 4/16 from 10 a.m.– Noon to collect seeds from Mary Hill Park to use in other areas. May 14th will be an Arbor Day event at Mary Hill Park. There may be room for an NRC informational table at that event. Nest committee meets during the day, but are scheduling an evening meeting in June as a member invite. There will be paddling tour of Pleasant Lake in June to help identify native and invasive species.

7d. City Forester Report

- Forester not in attendance. Monthly report will be circulated to NRC members.

7e. VLAWMO Tech Report

- Hawkins shared NOHOA Board member Orud's report in which she noted VLAWMO is in strategic planning progress. NOHOA is participating in some projects such as TMDL, carp, water and nutrient studies on waters within our boundaries. The North

Oaks Golf club is working on a gray water reuse project within the course. There are also a series of workshops being held in the near future – participants can sign up via the VLAWMO website. The Wilkinson 219 project is on schedule for 2024-2025.

7f. City Report

- Watson noted the City has hired a new city planner Kendra Lindahl from Landform.
- There are 6 VLAWMO projects identified:
 - i. Surface water and natural resource,
 - ii. Groundwater quality and quantity, data analysis capacity
 - iii. Education and involvement
 - iv. Localized Flooding
 - v. AIS Management
- Watson wondered how VLAWMO staff priorities and efforts will align with the priorities.
- Hara mentioned there are some pockets of North Oaks that are not covered by sirens.
- Watson mentioned that Deputy Burrell is out on medical leave. There remain concerns about speed, pedestrians/bike safety as the weather gets nicer.
- Winsor inquired about approval of the Phase 2 of the Pesticide plan. Kress noted it will be on the April Council agenda.
- It was asked if NRC will meet in person in April. Administrator Kress mentioned that it works better if all members are either in person, or all zoom as it is difficult when it is split due to technology. It was suggested that atleast a few meetings a year are in person. Kress will ask members that are not in attendance if they are open to meeting in person next meeting.
- Dunn mentioned that Earth day is coming next month. The topic will be put on the Agenda to discuss ways to celebrate at the April meeting.

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by Dunn, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call.

Kevin Kress, City Administrator

Chair, Andrew Hawkins

Date approved: _____

North Oaks Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan

PURPOSE

By proactively implementing the provisions of this management plan, the City is attempting to mitigate the disruption to its urban forest caused by the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Taking a proactive approach to the potential infestation enables the City to address both public and private impacts in an efficient and effective manner.

The City will attempt to distribute costs associated with the EAB over a manageable time period, and lessen the economic and social impact that an extensive loss of ash trees would have on the quality of life in our community.

In establishing this management plan, the City considered the following factors:

- EAB, a non-native insect was first discovered in SE Michigan in 2002. Since that time it has been discovered in 16 additional states and several locations in Canada.
- EAB was discovered in St. Paul and in Falcon Heights in 2009 and in the vicinity of County Road I and Schulte Roads in Shoreview in the summer of 2011, a distance of approximately 2.5 miles from the northwestern border of North Oaks.
- Given the rapid spread of this insect upon its arrival to North America, a proactive approach will allow the City to have greater control over the situation and minimize and better manage the impact and costs of EAB.
- Removal of diseased or declining ash trees will help prevent the more rapid spread and impact of EAB in the community.
- Managed use of optional chemical treatments which have demonstrated efficacy in controlling EAB could be utilized to save ecologically benefitting, aesthetically pleasing, and property value enhancing ash trees.
- Reforesting the City with native tree species will increase the diversity and sustainability of the forest.
- The City of North Oaks is unique in that the city owns no property. All property in the community is privately owned or owned by NOHOA or North Oaks Company.

EMERALD ASH BORER BACKGROUND: THE PROBLEM

Emerald ash borer, (*Agrilus planipennis*), is a small member of the beetle family. It is a non-native (introduced) pest that has killed tens of millions of native and landscape ash trees in eastern North America since it was discovered. The native range for EAB is SE Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea. In the past decade, the exotic beetle found its way to the United States, presumably on solid wood packing material shipped from Asia.

The adult beetle is a bright metallic green color, with an elongated, slender body measuring ½ inch long and 1/16th of an inch in diameter. EAB undergoes a multi-phase life cycle that generally encompasses a one to three year period. Adults are generally active from mid-June to mid-August. Females lay eggs in the bark of ash trees that take from 7 to 12 days to hatch. Upon hatching the larvae burrow into the nutrient conducting tissue of the (phloem) where they feed for several weeks. The white to cream colored larvae is flattened with 10 bell shaped segments and a pair of brown pincers on the last segment. The larvae feeding results in a very characteristic S-shaped patterning under the bark called

galleries. Large numbers of larvae feeding in the vascular tissue (tissue that conducts water up from the roots and nutrients down from the leaves) disrupt or stop flow of these vital nutrients resulting in wilting, yellowing, and ultimately the death of the tree. The larvae cease feeding in autumn and overwinter in a pre-pupae stage in the tree. Pupation (transformation from larva to adult beetle) occurs in late April or May with the beetle exiting the trees through characteristic D-shaped holes measuring approximately 1/8th inch.

Without any natural predators or controls in North America, the insect has spread to 16 states and two Canadian provinces. Millions of ash trees have been killed with some cities reporting complete loss of all ash trees within 5 years of EAB becoming established. There has been no stopping the devastation to the urban forest, though millions of dollars have been spent on prevention methods. In other communities where the insect is now establishing itself, a combination of preemptive removal of low quality ash trees and a mix of chemical treatments has slowed the death of the ash trees allowing communities to manage the problem more efficiently and effectively. The most current research shows that early sanitation efforts have helped slow the spread of EAB in Minnesota. The quick spread of the insect in North America is not due in any large part to the insect. They are relatively weak flyers, only capable of moving about a ½ mile per generation. The beetle has quickly spread demonstrated by the fact that it is estimated to have arrived in SE Michigan 12 years before being detected. In fact, the quick spread of the insect is mostly attributable to human activity and the movement of firewood.

Ash tree debris (branches and trunks) should be brought to Ramsey County Yard Waste Collection Sites for proper sanitation. Stumps will not be accepted and residents are encouraged to grind the stumps out or have a licensed tree contractor apply herbicides to the stump to prevent sprouting. Ash tree debris may remain on the site from which the tree was removed in the form of mulch or firewood. Ash tree debris can not be moved out of the currently quarantined counties of Ramsey and Hennepin. The less ash wood is moved the better for the community as a whole. If firewood is to be brought in to the community it is most important that it only be purchased from Minnesota Department of Agriculture certified sources:

[http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pest management/firewood/firewooddealers.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pest%20management/firewood/firewooddealers.aspx). This is done to prevent the beetle from accidentally being introduced into North Oaks.

Signs of EAB include:

- Splitting bark and or small “D” shaped exit holes where beetles emerge.
- Serpentine “S” shaped larval galleries underneath the bark.
- The presence of EAB or larvae.

Symptoms of EAB infestation include:

- General thinning of canopy and increasing dieback of the ash tree.
- Increased woodpecker activity (feeding on larvae).
- Sprouting of new growth shoots from the base of the tree.

APPLICABILITY

This plan applies throughout the City and includes all private property, NOHOA land and North Oaks Company land. The City will follow similar policies that have been used in dealing with the Dutch Elm and Oak Wilt diseases, with variations in removal requirements and timing. The City Zoning Ordinance will be revised to reflect the need to manage ash trees and EAB.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Resident education and ongoing outreach communications are key components of managing the impact of the EAB, especially as more information becomes available. Continued coordinated public information dissemination to residents and the media will be administered through the City's website, newsletters, and social media. Public meetings will be conducted as necessary. The City will maintain a list of resources for homeowners from relevant agencies; see Appendix A for current community resources.

As EAB activities occurs in isolated neighborhoods, direct communication will be made by the City to advise residents on the current situation of their ~~boulevard or~~ privately owned trees and activity in their neighborhood.

Homeowners may treat their private trees, provided they use a licensed treatment contractor who adheres to the City's standards to protect surface and ground water.

CURRENT EAB SITUATION

To date, the EAB has not been detected in North Oaks. However, in the summer of 2011 the EAB was detected within the neighboring community of Shoreview in the Shamrock Park Area. Analysis of the infestation showed that the EAB had already been present for 3-4 years. This find now joins finds in Falcon Heights, Roseville, Minneapolis, and St Paul. City forestry crews are constantly looking at ash trees for any sign of beetle activity. The sooner the beetle is found the quicker a proper response can be implemented. It is estimated that more than 7 percent of North Oaks urban forest is compiled of ash trees based on a recent Minnesota Department of Natural Resources survey.¹

1 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 2010 Community Tree Survey. Survey of front yard and street trees in residential and commercial sampling areas. Ash Trees represented 7% of the top ten tree genera for the City of Shoreview.

MITIGATION POLICIES

Although it is impossible to stop the spread of invasive species like the EAB, the City's EAB Management Plan is created to lessen the impact of the EAB on the City's landscape. The City's mitigation of EAB will be similar to its policies regarding Dutch Elm and Oak Wilt diseases, which attempt to control and prevent the spread of these diseases and limit potential for property damage and bodily injury.

In an effort to mitigate EAB, the City will take the following actions:

1. The City will provide and promote the services of S and S Tree to provide a Tree Inventory and inspection at the residential lot level at reduced rates to help in the EAB assessment process.
2. Removal of EAB infested trees: The City will update its diseased tree ordinance to require the removal of both public and private ash trees infested by the EAB to prevent the spread of the disease. Rules or requirements used for determining infestation will be per the Department of Agriculture or Department of Natural Resources guidelines. This ordinance will allow the City to enter private property for inspection, require the removal of diseased trees, and abate the nuisance upon non-compliance of property owners.

3. Preemptive removal of declining ash trees: The City will begin conducting ash tree inventories through the services of S&S Tree. Preemptive removal of declining ash trees may be recommended in some areas. This will be the decision of the property owner.
4. Chemical treatment option: There are currently three methods of tree treatments being offered in the marketplace; drenching the soil with chemicals, injecting the chemical into the tree, and applying a bark spray. The City will not allow the use of soil drench or bark spray insecticides applied by the homeowner due to potential to pollute water and negatively impact wildlife. The city may allow chemical treatments in situations where deemed most effective and treatments must be handled by properly licensed contractors.

The City maintains guidelines for treatment of ash trees to help control the onset of EAB and considers trunk injections a management tool to utilize on significant trees within parks and along higher profile right of ways, higher volume roads, and Municipal State Aid collector streets. Due to the high cost of reoccurring treatments and the long-term effects of chemical treatments on ash trees, water resources, and the environment, the City shall identify the best candidates for treatment.

The City will permit residents to use chemical treatments on either private ash trees or ash trees in boulevard or trail and open space areas, given the following:

- a. Private contractors are to use **only** the approved trunk injection method.
 - b. The infection treatment application must be done by City licensed tree contractor that is bonded, insured, and state licensed to apply commercial tree chemicals.
 - c. Records of all treatments will be maintained by the city.
5. Wood utilization: The City will make every effort to make use of ash tree debris as possible. Suitable ash tree logs could be milled and dried making the wood safe for other uses such as boardwalks, street signs, or other infrastructure. Properly mulched wood could be used on playgrounds or on trails to help prevent erosion. Other uses could involve using the logs to stabilize badly eroding shorelines. Much of the ash wood waste is also being brought to wood processing plants to be converted into usable energy. Creative solutions to this issue will be ongoing and should be high on the communities priority list.
 6. Monitoring and Tracking: The City will track the spread of EAB in North Oaks and surrounding communities in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture or Department of Natural Resources. The City will also monitor trees that have been treated as reported by private contractors. The City will conduct a tree inventory to identify replacement and reforestation-as time and resources allow.
 7. The City and the NRC will provide Education and Resources on the city web page and with local training events and cable channel videos.
 8. Reforestation: The city will make every effort to encourage reforestation of private properties, the City will hold an annual tree sale program that allows residents to purchase trees at wholesale prices. The program will offer a variety of tree species that are appropriate for this region, and the City will promote diversity in all public and private plantings.

SUMMARY

EAB will have a significant impact on North Oak's landscape. The City's plan is designed to inform the public of new infestations, treatment options, removal requirements, and to provide a comprehensive proactive approach to addressing the EAB infestation. The City will also partner with residents, NOHOA, the North Oaks Golf Club and the North Oaks Company to work together on the education and the implementation of this plan.

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